



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NO. 22 BJ 2008

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or man-made causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;
- WHEREAS,** the combination of a stationary front and a series of weather disturbances coming out of the southwest U.S. resulted in intense thunderstorms across the state commencing May 14, 2008 and continuing through May 15, 2008;
- WHEREAS,** as a result of this weather system, many areas of the State have experienced flash flooding, torrential rainfall, damaging winds and tornadoes prompting the issuance of emergency declarations in the parishes of Caddo, Bossier, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Livingston and St. Martin;
- WHEREAS,** resources from the Louisiana National Guard have been committed since May 14, 2008, to some parishes in order to prevent the loss of life and the destruction of property, while other parishes have requested logistical support from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and
- WHEREAS,** a declaration of a state of emergency is necessary to allow state agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality and to allow federal agencies and federal resources to be deployed if necessary;

NOW THEREFORE I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- SECTION 1:** Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is declared to exist for the State of Louisiana as a result of the flash flood producing torrential rainfall, large hail, damaging straight line winds, and tornadoes actual flooding and wind damage threatening the lives and property of the citizens of the State.
- SECTION 2:** Pursuant to R.S. 29:7, the Louisiana National Guard, which was ordered into state active service on May 14, 2008, is hereby directed to continue in active service of the state in order to assist civil authorities in Louisiana and provide such personnel and equipment necessary to protect the citizens and property of the State of Louisiana from the danger of flooding and high wind conditions.
- SECTION 3:** The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems necessary and appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 4:

The state of emergency extends from May 14 through June 13, 2008, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 15th day of May, 2008.

/S/ BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA



ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

/S/ JAY DARDENNE
SECRETARY OF STATE